



RTCA in Kentucky

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. The National Park Service (NPS) staff provide technical assistance to community groups, city, county, tribal governments, and non-profit organizations working to enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation opportunities. We help local leaders plan and design trails and parks; conserve and improve access to natural areas; protect special places; and create recreation opportunities.

The RTCA program in Kentucky offers a wide range of services that can be tailored to meet the needs of an individual project. The NPS staff members are trained facilitators who encourage project leaders to build collaborative partnerships among governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. The program helps communities and groups define their vision, goals, and objectives; analyze issues and opportunities; and develop strategic action plans and time lines for projects. We do not provide financial assistance, but can help project partners identify and secure sources of funding and technical support.

Any community with committed project partners can apply for assistance. Believing the best plans are completed locally, the National Park Service will work with partners to encourage broad-based community participation in planning, designing, and implementing the projects we support.

In 2016, the National Park Service in Kentucky will work on a variety of projects including:

- **Bluegrass Regional Trails Phase II** – The project goal is to begin Phase II of the project that consists of work on the existing and planned trails in Fayette and Scott Counties for hiking, bicycle touring, mountain bike, equestrian and water trails into Woodford, Franklin and Owen Counties. (Location: Franklin, Woodford and Owen Counties, Kentucky)
- **Cave Region Trails** – The project goal is to create a regional network of biking, hiking, walking, equestrian, and water trails to connect communities and make the Mammoth Cave area in south central Kentucky a more attractive destination and place to live. (Location: Barren, Edmonson, Hart and Warren, Kentucky)
- **Green River Blueway Water Trail** – The project goal is to continue the work with the Barren River Area Development District towards developing the water trail master plan for the 325- mile water trail on the Green River in south central Kentucky. (Location: South Central Kentucky)
- **Rough River Blue Water Trail** – The project goal is to create a water trail master plan for the 100-mile stretch of the Rough River Blue Water Trail along the Rough River Corridor. (Location: Breckinridge, Grayson and Ohio Counties, Kentucky)
- **Three Corners Regional Trails** – The project goal is to develop a regional master plan for the four-county, three state area surrounding Cumberland Gap National Historical Park with a focus on development and promotion of outdoor recreation possibilities such as hiking, biking, equestrian, off-highway vehicle and water trails. (Location: Bell and Harlan Counties, Kentucky)
- **West Louisville Recreation Plan** – The project goal is to develop a strategic outreach and planning process to provide nature-based outdoor recreation programming for minority youth in the west Louisville, Kentucky area. (Location: West Louisville, Kentucky)



A group exploring the Cave Region Trails.

For more information about the RTCA program refer to: www.nps.gov/rtca, or for information about ongoing or potential RTCA projects in Kentucky contact:

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